

Lesson 22. Preventing Staged Collision

Lesson Purpose

To focus on recognizing and avoiding becoming a victim of a staged collision.

Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Recognize indicators of a staged collision.
- Identify and practice strategies for protecting themselves from staged collisions.

Materials

Presentation: Preventing Staged Collision

Handout(s): *"Preventing Staged Collision"*

Supplement: Display newspaper or magazine articles on staged collisions and tips on prevention.

Related Resources

National Crime Prevention Council, www.ncpc.org

Lesson Plan

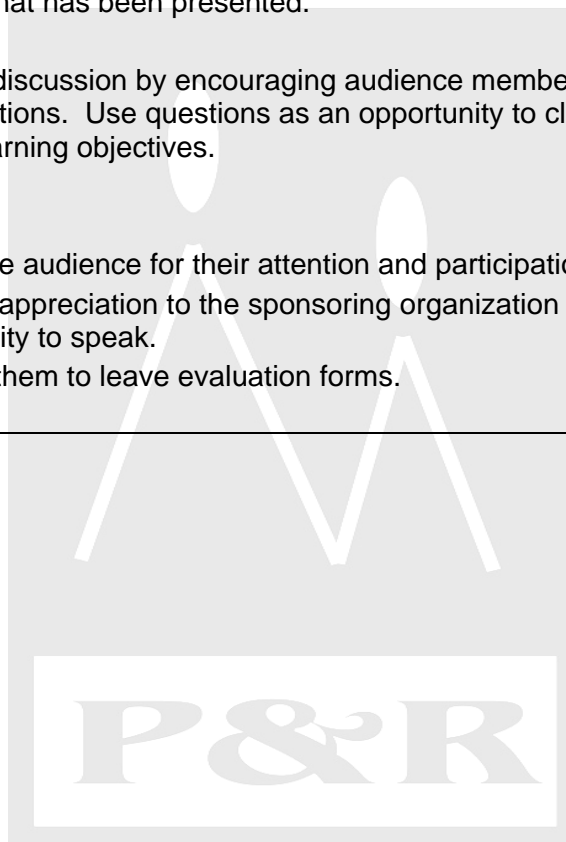
Time	Main Points	Slide
Introduction		
5 min.	Anyone who has ever been involved in a vehicle collision knows this is a traumatic experience for everyone involved. However, how would it make you feel if you discovered that a collision you were involved in was not an accident? That instead it was "staged" for financial greed?	1 - 2
	Briefly describe an example of a staged collision.	
	Today, we'll look at different types of staged collisions and describe some strategies for protecting ourselves.	2
	Distribute handout: <i>"Preventing Staged Collision"</i>	

Time	Main Points	Slide
Presentation		
6 min.	<p>Common types of staged collisions</p> <p><u>“Swoop and Squat”</u> - criminals maneuver their vehicle in front of a targeted vehicle and slam on the brakes. By doing this radical maneuver, the criminals are attempting to cause the targeted vehicle to collide with the rear of their vehicle, attempting to make it appear the targeted vehicle is at fault.</p> <p><u>“Drive Down”</u> or <u>“Wave On”</u> involves a situation where a targeted vehicle does not have the right-of-way and criminals gesture, or “wave,” to the targeted motorist offering the opportunity to proceed ahead of them.</p> <p>When the targeted vehicle proceeds, the criminals purposely drive their vehicle into the targeted vehicle creating an accident that appears to be the fault of the target.</p>	3
2 min.	<p>Risk factors for staged collision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully insured motorists, driving alone, are the favorite targets of criminals involved in staged collisions. Criminals involved in staged collisions prefer “lone drivers” because “passengers” make good witnesses. Luxury and commercial vehicles often are targeted because they offer the promise of extensive insurance coverage. 	4
5 min.	<p>Driving Tips</p> <p>If you are involved in a collision,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your safety, and the safety of your passengers, are foremost. If possible, remove your vehicle from the traffic lanes. Before removing your vehicle, make sure you inform the other motorist involved that you are removing your vehicle for safety reasons and are not attempting to leave the scene of the accident, and that you are not a hit-and-run driver. 	5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once you and your passengers are in a safe place, exchange information with the other motorist involved. Also, be aware of persons at the scene of the collision who might be potential witnesses. Approach these persons and try to obtain a statement from them of what they saw. Also write down their individual names, addresses and telephone numbers for future reference. Carry a disposable camera in the glove compartment of your vehicle. Take as many pictures of the other vehicle and its passengers as possible. This will help the police detectives investigate your collision case. 	6

Time	Main Points	Slide
2 min.	<p>If you think you have been involved in a staged collision,:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make sure to count the number of passengers in the other vehicle. ▪ If possible, get their individual names, addresses, telephone numbers and driver's license numbers. Often more people will file claims than were in the vehicle when the collision occurred. 	7

Time	Main Points	Slide
2 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ When driving, be aware of other vehicles around you. Always allow ample space between you and the vehicle in front of you. Look beyond the vehicle in front of you. If you see a vehicle a car or two in front of you slowing down, begin to slow down, too. Do not wait for the vehicle in front of you to slow down first. ▪ Be very careful when turning from a lane that allows two vehicles to turn simultaneously. Criminals who commit staged collisions often prey on vehicles that cross the centerline, purposely sideswiping a targeted vehicle. 	8
2 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Often, "phony witnesses" are positioned near the scene of the staged collision to support the involved criminal's account and to contradict the innocent driver's account of what actually happened. In some instances, criminals inflict injury upon themselves, or they claim to have "hard to dispute" soft-tissue injuries in order to collect on insurance claims. ▪ If you suspect you have been involved in a staged collision immediately report the crime to law enforcement. 	9
2 min.	<p>Summarizing (briefly highlight each content area)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Types of staged collisions. ▪ Key strategies for avoiding staged collisions. ▪ What to do if you are in a collision. ▪ What to do if you suspect a staged collision. 	10
Practice/feedback		
10 min.	<p>Have participants review the list of strategies for preventing staged collisions in their handout. Ask them to place a checkmark (✓) beside the things they now do and to place an asterisk (*) beside the things that they need to begin to do. Give participants 5 to 7 minutes to complete this review. The instructor should circulate among the participants during this time. Conclude the activity by asking 2 or 3 volunteer participants to share what they learned from the review. The instructor should reinforce prevention strategies and key learning points.</p>	11

Time	Main Points	Slide
Evaluation		
10 min.	<p>Set-up</p> <p>We have a few minutes for questions and additional discussion. While we're doing that, we have a brief evaluation form we'd like for you to complete and leave with us. Your name is not required, but your feedback is very important. It will help us improve our presentation and program.</p> <p>Distribute evaluation forms and ask for questions or additional comments on what has been presented.</p> <p>Promote group discussion by encouraging audience members to help respond to questions. Use questions as an opportunity to clarify and reinforce key learning objectives.</p> <p>Wrap-up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thank the audience for their attention and participation. ▪ Express appreciation to the sponsoring organization for the opportunity to speak. ▪ Remind them to leave evaluation forms. 	12



22. Preventing Staged Collision

Please tell us what you think about this lesson by circling the numbers that most closely reflect your opinions.

After this lesson . . .	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
a) I now can better recognize indicators of a staged collision.	1	2	3	4
b) I know more strategies for avoiding a staged collision.	1	2	3	4
c) I know more about what to do if I am involved in a collision.	1	2	3	4
d) I know more strategies to protect myself if I suspect a staged collision.	1	2	3	4
About this lesson . . .				
e) The information presented was valuable.	1	2	3	4
f) The lesson was presented in a clear and understandable manner.	1	2	3	4
g) Lesson activities and discussion were helpful.	1	2	3	4
h) I would recommend this lesson to others.	1	2	3	4

What was the most valuable thing you learned?

Please give one example of how you plan to use the information presented in this lesson.

How could this lesson be improved?

